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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

"NIRVANA" CHOCOLATE BAR MIMICS (CONTAINING PSILOCIN) IN THE COLONY, TEXAS

The Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory (Garland, Texas) recently received 22½ "Nirvana" brand chocolate bar mimics suspected to contain psilocybin mushrooms (see Photos 1 and 2). The bars were seized from a local residence by the The Colony Police Department (The Colony is located north of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area). The exhibits appeared to be commercially packaged, with the chocolate bars wrapped in either gold foil or gold foil paper, and overwrapped with professionally appearing printed labels that

Photo 1

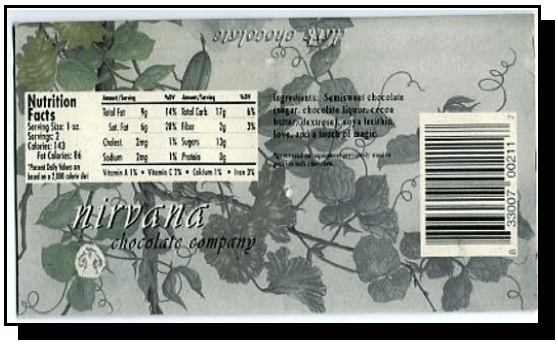

Photo 2

included standard nutritional information and bar-coding. However, the labels did not match actual "Nirvana" brand confections (see: www.NirvanaChocolates.com), and the labeling also included comments that the bars contained "a touch of magic". Upon visual inspection, the chocolate clearly contained plant material (see Photo 3). Analysis of the exhibits (total net mass 1,450 grams) by TLC and GC/MS confirmed psilocin (not quantitated). This was the fourth and largest ever submission of psilocybin mushroom chocolate concoctions to the Garland Laboratory, and the first to be packaged as mimics of a commercial product.

Photo 3

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

HEROIN IN FABRIC TUBES WITHIN BASEBALL CAPS IN NEW JERSEY

The DEA Northeast Laboratory (New York, New York) recently received 12 baseball cap type hats with various logos, each with two long, flat, fabric tubes sewn around their inside perimeters that contained a beige powder, suspected heroin (see Photos 4 and 5). The hats were seized in northern New Jersey by local Task Force Officers, and were submitted through the DEA Newark Field Division (exact locale and circumstances not available). Analysis of the powder (total net mass 40.8 grams) by microscopy, FTIR, GC/FID, and GC/MS confirmed 91 percent heroin hydrochloride. The Northeast Laboratory commonly receives various articles of clothing containing heroin, but this was the first encounter with this particular smuggling technique. The original source (country of origin) of the hats was not reported.

Photo 4

Photo 5

- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

PRESUMED *TRICHOCEREUS PERUVIANUS* CACTUS (CONTAINING MESCALINE) IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Photo 6

The DEA Southwest Laboratory (Vista, California) recently received a tall jar containing three different exhibits of unknown plant materials, suspected to contain controlled substances (see Photo 6). The first exhibit consisted of black dried plant material (total net mass 33.8 grams) in a plastic bag that was labelled as "Trichocereus Peruvianus, dry green flesh" (*Trichocereus peruvianus* is described on the Internet as a mescaline-containing cactus). The second exhibit consisted of loose, large green chunks of dried plant material (total net mass 160.9 grams) in a glass jar, and the third consisted of a yellowish powder (total net mass 27.1 grams) in a plastic bag. The exhibits were seized in conjunction with an indoor marijuana grow in San Diego County. A 3 gram sample of each exhibit was submitted to standard acid/base workup; analyses of the resulting extracts by GC and GC/MS confirmed mescaline in the green chunks and in the yellowish powder, and identified trace mesacaline in the black dried material labelled as "dry green flesh" (quantitations not performed). The actual identities of the plant materials were not confirmed. These are the first submissions of this type to the Southwest Laboratory.

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

MIXED COCAINE AND COCAINE MIMIC PACKAGES IN LAREDO, TEXAS

The DEA South Central Laboratory (Dallas, Texas) recently received 11 samples of white powder, suspected cocaine. The samples were selected from a total of 48 brick-sized bundles, that had been seized by Customs and Border Protection personnel in Laredo, Texas from the

rear tires of a vehicle crossing the border from Mexico. The bundles were wrapped in carbon paper, grease, and cellophane, and came in two distinct sizes (see Photo 7), with the smaller packages being about half the thickness of the larger packages, but all weighing about 1 kilogram each. Preliminary screening indicated that only the larger bundles contained cocaine, and so the entire seizure was submitted for analysis. Analysis of the material in 32 larger bundles (total net mass 32.13 kilograms) by IR/ATR, GC/FID, and GC/MS confirmed 81 percent cocaine hydrochloride. Analysis of the material in 15 smaller bundles (total net mass 15.37 kilograms) by IR/ATR and GC/MS indicated no controlled substance (the material was tentatively identified as calcium sulfate). [The results of analysis for the 48th bundle was not reported.] While large seizures of cocaine HCl bricks are not uncommon, this submission was unusual in that it contained cocaine brick mimics.

Photo 7

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

RECTANGULAR HEROIN PELLETS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

The DEA Southeast Laboratory (Miami, Florida) recently received 140 unusual rectangular, plastic and latex-wrapped pellets containing a compressed, off white powder, suspected heroin (see Photo 8). The exhibits were seized by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol personnel from within a wooden crate that had arrived from Medellin, Colombia. Analysis of the powder (total net mass 2,990 grams) by GC/MS and FTIR confirmed 93 percent heroin hydrochloride. This is believed to be the first submission of rectangular pellets to the Southeast Laboratory. Because the pellets had been removed from the crate before submission to the laboratory, it is unknown whether the pellets were rectangular as a result of being forced into an enclosed space, or were prepared in that shape for some other reason.

Photo 8

- INTELLIGENCE BRIEF -

SALVIA DIVINORUM IN MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Crime Laboratory (Martinez, California) recently received one bag of seeds and two bags of green plant material, the latter both submitted as suspected marijuana (however, one of the bags was labeled "Salvia Divinorum 10x") (photos not available). The exhibits were seized in Moraga (Contra Costa County) by the Moraga Police Department, pursuant to a burglary investigation. It was determined that the plant material in the bag labeled as "Salvia Divinorum 10x" (total net mass less than three grams) was not marijuana. Analysis of a methanolic extract of a sample of the material by GC/MS gave no data; however, analysis of a boiling chloroform extract by GC/MS presumptively identified Salvinorin A, the primary hallucinogen in *Salvia divinorum* (not quantitated). The second bag in this case was not labelled and was found to contain no controlled substances. The seeds in the third bag were not identified. This was the first submission of *Salvia divinorum* to the laboratory.

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- INTELLIGENCE BRIEF -

COCAINE CONTAINING DILTIAZEM IN DEER PARK, TEXAS

The Pasadena Police Department Regional Crime Laboratory (Pasadena, Texas) recently received two samples of cocaine hydrochloride from the Deer Park (Texas) Police Department that contained diltiazem (Pasadena and Deer Park are located just east of Houston). The samples were analyzed using GC/MS and FTIR analysis, and diltiazem was confirmed via comparison with a pharmaceutical standard.

[Editor's Note: For comprehensive analytical data for diltiazem, see: Peters DE. Diltiazem HCl: An analytical profile. Microgram Journal 2004;2(1-4):11.]

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SELECTED REFERENCES

[Selected references are a compilation of recent publications of presumed interest to forensic chemists. Unless otherwise stated, all listed citations are published in English. Listed mailing address information (which is sometimes cryptic or incomplete) exactly duplicates that provided by the abstracting services. Patents are reported only by their *Chemical Abstracts* citation number.]

1. Casale JF, Ehleringer JR, Morello DR, Lott MJ. **Isotopic fractionation of carbon and nitrogen during the illicit processing of cocaine and heroin in South America.** Journal of Forensic Sciences 2005;50(6):1315. [Editor's Notes: Presents an in-depth study of the title topic. Contact: DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory, 22624 Dulles Summit Ct., Dulles, VA 20166.]

2. Casale JF, Toske SG, Colley VL. **Alkaloid content of the seeds from Erythroxylum coca v. coca.** Journal of Forensic Sciences 2005;50(6):1402. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title topic. The seeds were acquired from plants in the Chapare Valley of Bolivia. 11 alkaloids were determined using GC/MS and LC/MS. Contact: DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory, 22624 Dulles Summit Ct., Dulles, VA 20166.]

3. Chen Z, Wang Y, Zhao Y, An J, Qi T. **Analysis of mixed drugs of abuse by gas chromatography - mass spectrometry.** Zhongguo Yaowu Yilaixing Zazhi 2005;14(1):68. [Editor's Notes: Listed drugs include "amphetamines", morphine, ketamine, pethidine, diazepam, caffeine, cocaine, chlorpheniramine, and phenacetin. This article is written in Chinese. Contact: School of Forensic Medicine, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan 030001, Peop. Rep. China.]

4. Dong YM, Chen XF, Chen YL, Chen XG, Hu ZD. **Separation and determination of pseudoephedrine, dextromethorphan, diphenhydramine and chlorpheniramine in cold medicines by nonaqueous capillary electrophoresis.** Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis 2005;39(1-2):285. [Editor's Notes: The title technique was applied to five cold medications. Contact: Lanzhou Univ., Dept. Chem., Lanzhou 730000, Peoples R. China.]

5. Gimeno P, Besacier F, Botex M, Dujordy L, Chaudron-Thozet H. **A study of impurities in intermediates and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) samples produced via reductive amination routes.** Forensic Science International 2005;155(2-3):141. [Editor's Notes: An extensive study of the title topic. Contact: Laboratoire de Police Scientifique de Lyon, 31 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Ecully 69134, Fr.]

6. Grossman SI, Campbell JG, Loane CJ. **Apparatus for detection of drugs in a beverage.** (Patent (for detection of GHB and ketamine)) Chem. Abstr. 2005:998813.

7. Hazekamp A, Peltenburg A, Verpoorte R, Giroud C. **Chromatographic and spectroscopic data of cannabinoids from Cannabis sativa L.** Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies 2005;28(15):2361. [Editor's Notes: 16 different cannabinoids were determined using UV, IR, GC/MS, and spectrophotometry. The fluorescent properties of cannabinoids are also presented. Contact: Leiden Univ., Inst. Biol., Div Pharmacognosy, Einsteinweg 55, NL-2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands.]

8. Hays PA. **Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy (NMR) methods for determining the purity of reference drug standards and illicit forensic drug seizures.** Journal of Forensic Sciences 2005;50(6):1342. [Editor's Notes: Presents an in-depth study of the title topic. Contact: DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory, 22624 Dulles Summit Ct., Dulles, VA 20166.]

9. Jia J, Wang Y, Chen Z, Zhao Y, An J. **Determination of ketamine by TLCS.** Shanxi Yike Daxue Xuebao 2005;36(1):69. [Editor's Notes: A TLC-Scanning methodology method is presented for the separation and detection of ketamine, morphine, and heroin. Primary focus appears to be biological. This article is written in Chinese. Contact: School of Forensic Medicine, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan 030001, Peop. Rep. China.]

10. Kikura-Hanajiri R, Hayashi M, Saisho K, Goda Y. **Simultaneous determination of nineteen hallucinogenic tryptamines/beta-carbolines and phenethylamines using gas chromatography - mass spectrometry and liquid chromatography - electrospray ionisation - mass spectrometry.** Journal of Chromatography B - Analytical Technologies in the Biomedical and Life Sciences 2005;825(1):29. [Editor's Notes: 19 different compounds were determined

in 123 products acquired in Japan. Contact: Natl. Inst. Hlth. Sci., Setagaya Ku, 1-18-1 Kamiyoga, Tokyo 1588501, Japan.]

11. Lewis LD. **Method of disposing of hazardous wastes connected with criminal activity.** (Patent) Chem. Abstr. 2005:1132386.

12. McDermott SD, Power JD. **Drug smuggling using clothing impregnated with cocaine.** Journal of Forensic Sciences 2005;50(6):1423. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title case study, including recovery and quant data. Contact: Forensic Science Laboratory, Garda HQ, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland.]

13. Mudiam MR, Kumar SA, Mahadevan S, Ghosh P, Sarin RK, Beedu SR. **Quantitative evaluation of 28 mineral elements by inductively coupled plasma/mass spectrometry and its application in source identification of Indian opium.** Journal of AOAC International 2005;88(5):1469. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title study. The results suggest that opium from different regions within India cannot be discriminated, but that it can be differentiated from opium from other regions of the world. Contact: University College of Science, Department of Biochemistry, Osmania University, Hyderabad 500 007, India.]

14. Muller IB, Windberg CN. **Validation of an HPLC method for quantitation of MDMA in tablets.** Journal of Chromatographic Science 2005;43(8):434. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title study, using isocratic, reversed-phase HPLC. Contact: Department of Forensic Chemistry, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen 2100, Den.]

15. Ryder AG. **Surface enhanced Raman scattering for narcotics detection and applications to chemical biology.** Current Opinion in Chemical Biology 2005;9(5):489. [Editor's Notes: Discusses the use of SERS in various scenarios, including low level detection of (unspecified in abstract) narcotics. Contact: Department of Chemistry, and National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science, National University of Ireland - Galway, Galway, Ire.]

16. Smith F, Siegel J, Eds. **Handbook of Forensic Drug Analysis.** Elsevier: New York, NY: 2005.

17. Swist M, Wilamowski J, Parczewski A. **Basic and neutral route specific impurities in MDMA prepared by different synthesis methods.** Forensic Science International 2005;155(2-3):100. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title study (impurity profiles determined by GC/MS). Contact: Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Chemistry, Department of Analytical Chemistry, Ingardena 3, Krakow 30-060, Pol.]

18. Tsumura Y, Mitome T, Kimoto S. **False positives and false negatives with a cocaine - specific field test and modification of test protocol to reduce false decision.** Forensic Science International 2005;155(2-3):158. [Editor's Notes: An overview of the Scott test. Includes a new protocol for differentiating "crack" cocaine from 5-MeO-DIPT ("Foxy"). Contact: Narcotics Controlo Department, Government of Japan, Kinki Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare, 4-1-76, Otemae, Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-0008, Japan.]

19. Vande Casteele SR. **LC-MS/MS in the elucidation of an isomer of the recreational drug methylenedioxyethylamphetamine: Methylenedioxydimethylamphetamine.** Journal of Separation Science 2005;28:1729. [No Abstract or Contact Information provided.]

20. Witkowski MR. **The use of Raman spectroscopy in the detection of counterfeit and adulterated pharmaceutical products.** American Pharmaceutical Review 2005;8(1):56.

[Editor's Notes: Also discusses the application of FTIR and polarized light microscopy for this purpose. Contact: FDA Forensic Chemistry Center, USA (no further addressing information was provided).]

21. Yotoriyama M, Ishiharajima E, Kato Y, Nagato A, Sekita S, Watanabe K, Yamamoto I. **Identification and determination of cannabinoids in both commercially available and cannabis oils stored long term.** Journal of Health Science 2005;51(4):483. [Editor's Notes: The oils were obtained from *Cannabis sativa* L. THC, CBD, CBN, and cannabichromene were determined using HPTLC and GC/MS. Contact: Tochigi Prefect. Inst. Public Health Environ., Tochigi, Japan 329-1196.]

22. Zheng YF, Yamout KA, Berger DE, Hu MW, Liu H-T. **Assays for amphetamine and methamphetamine using stereospecific reagents.** (Patent) Chem. Abstr. 2005:300636.

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2. Bishop SC. **Advanced capillary electrophoretic techniques for the detection of date-rape and club drugs for a forensic setting.** Diss. Abstr. Int. B 2005;66(1):258. [Editor's Notes: Abstract not provided. Contact: Ohio Univ., Athens, OH (zip code not provided).]

3. Botonjic E. **Forensic and biological applications of vibrational spectroscopy.** Diss. Abstr. Int. B 2005;66(1):257. [Editor's Notes: Abstract not provided. Contact: Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI (zip code not provided).]

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5. Koppenaal DW, Barinaga CJ, Denton MB, Sperline RP, Hieftje GM, Schilling GD, Andrade FJ, Barnes, IV JH. **MS detectors.** Analytical Chemistry 2005;77(21):418A. [Editor's Notes: An overview of the current state of the field. Contact: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, Richland, WA 99352.]

6. Lachenmeier DW. **Analysis and toxicological evaluation of cannabinoids in hemp food products - A review.** Electronic Journal of Environmental, Agricultural and Food Chemistry 2005;4(1):812. [No Abstract or Contact Information provided.]

7. Nieuwland AA. **Applications of chromatography, spectroscopy, and capillary electrophoresis to the analysis of forensic samples.** Diss. Abstr. Int. B 2005;65(12):6355. [Editor's Notes: Abstract not provided. Contact: Univ. of South Carolina, Colombia, SC (zip code not provided).]

8. Potts PJ, Ellis AT, Kregsamer P, Streli C, Vanhoof C, West M, Wobrauschek P. **Atomic spectrometry update. X-ray fluorescence spectrometry.** Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry 2005;20(10):1124. [Editor's Notes: A review of the title topic; includes (unspecified) forensic applications. Contact: Faculty of Science, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keyes MK7 6AA.]

9. Wirtshafter DE. **Ten years of a modern hemp industry.** Journal of Industrial Hemp 2004;9(1):9. [No Abstract or Contact Information provided.]

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THE DEA FY - 2006 STATE AND LOCAL FORENSIC CHEMISTS SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The remaining FY - 2006 schedule for the DEA's State and Local Forensic Chemists Seminar is as follows:

February 6 - 10, 2006
May 8 - 12, 2006
July 10 - 14, 2006
September 11 - 15, 2006

Note that the school is open only to forensic chemists working for law enforcement agencies, and is intended for chemists who have completed their agency's internal training program and have also been working on the bench for at least one year. There is no tuition charge for this course. The course is held at the AmeriSuites Hotel in Sterling, Virginia (near the Washington/Dulles International Airport). A copy of the application form is reproduced on the last page of the August 2004 issue of *Microgram Bulletin*. Completed applications should be mailed to the Special Testing and Research Laboratory (Attention: Pam Smith or Jennifer Kerlavage) at: 22624 Dulles Summit Court, Dulles, VA 20166. For additional information, call 703/668-3337.

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Computer Corner #201

Computer Forensic Examination Workstations

by Steve Carter, Group Supervisor
DEA Digital Evidence Laboratory

[Editor's Preface: This issue of "Computer Corner" marks the start of the third era of columnists. "Computer Corner" was initiated by Senior Forensic Chemist Chuck Harper at DEA's Special Testing and Research Laboratory. Chuck wrote the first 120 issues, focusing on basic aspects of computer operations - that is, the "nuts and bolts" of how computers work. In April of 1999, "Computer Corner" was picked up by Group Supervisor (later Laboratory Director) Mike Phelan, who changed the focus to (first) Computer Forensics and then to the broader field of Digital Evidence. Last month's issue was Mike's last - but not the end of "Computer Corner" or its current focus on Digital Evidence. "Computer Corner" will now be written by the staff at DEA's Digital Evidence Laboratory.

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An examination workstation should contain the necessary items that will allow an examiner to perform a complete computer forensic examination. DEA provides workstations containing a comprehensive array of components (detailed below) to each computer forensic examiner. The current, estimated costs for these components are also detailed below.

Setup:

- Hard drive duplicator (to duplicate an exhibit's hard drive)
- Uninterruptible power supplies (to maintain power to the workstation if there is a power outage)
- Storage cabinet (to store media, tools, etc.)
- Monitors (to view what's coming from the forensic computer)
- SCSI/Promise card (to attach additional hard drives to a computer)
- Work copy hard drives (to contain the "images" of an exhibit)
- Tool kit (to open an exhibit in order to retrieve the hard drive)
- Laser printer (to make printouts of findings, etc.)
- Evidence security box (to store working copies, case files, or other small items that are case related)
- Evidence cart (to transport evidence from the evidence vault to the forensic workstation and back)
- Set of registered forensic software (to analyze exhibits)
- Set of miscellaneous cables, connectors (needed for extra connectivity)
- Sets of electrical power cords and surge protectors, power strips (to provide power or protection to the workstation)
- Office telephone (to communicate with the case agent, attorney(s), and others)
- Write blockers (to protect against changes being made to the original evidence)
- Forensic laptop for on-site acquisitions (to perform on-site backups)
- Workbenches (to hold the forensic workstation)
- Intranet terminal (to communicate with the case agent and others)

Costs:

Item	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
• Hard drive duplicator	$3,000	3	$9,000
• Uninterruptible power supply	$600	3	$1800
• Storage cabinet	$800	1	$800
• Monitors	$600	2	$1,200
• SCSI/Promise Card	$300	5	$1,500
• Work copy hard drives	$300	20	$6,000
• Tool kit	$300	1	$300
• Laser printer	$700	1	$700
• Evidence Security box	$500	1	$500
• Evidence cart	$250	1	$250
• Registered software	$4,000	1	$4,000
• Misc. cables, connectors	$300	1	$300
• Power cords surge protector	$150	3	$450
• Office phone	$325	1	$325
• Write blockers	$1,300	2	$2,600
• Forensic laptop	$2,500	1	$2,500
• Workbench	$3,000	2	$6,000
• Intranet Terminal	$5,000	1	$5,000

Includes:

- Software licenses
- Network cable drop
- Shared printer

Collective Total (per examiner): $38,225

Questions or comments? E-mail: Steven.L.Carter -at- usdoj.gov

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